

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, & Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations legislation, we write to respectfully request that you include \$60 million for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration Grants, as authorized in the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (FY23 Omnibus) (P.L. 117-328). Of this amount, we also request that \$2.91 million be provided for Technical Assistance.

Our country is experiencing a behavioral health crisis with suicide and overdose deaths at record levels. Many individuals first display symptoms of a mental health condition or substance use disorder in the primary care setting, but frequently cannot access the necessary follow-up treatment. In addition, patients often have difficulty finding a mental health professional or avoid seeking treatment due to the stigma that still exists around mental health and substance use disorders. Primary care and behavioral health integration through widely adopted models, such as the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) and the Primary Care Behavioral Health Model (PCBH), provide a strong building block to address these problems by ensuring that patients can receive prompt behavioral health treatment within the office of their primary care clinician.

Critically, the FY23 Omnibus authorized SAMHSA's Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration Grants to include support for primary care practices to implement the CoCM. The CoCM is an evidence-based model that integrates behavioral health care within the primary care setting and features a primary care physician, a psychiatric consultant, and care manager working together in a coordinated fashion. The model has over 90 research studies demonstrating its efficacy and is covered by Medicare, most private insurers, and many state Medicaid programs. However, utilization of the CoCM by primary care physicians and practices remains low due to the up-front costs associated with implementation, and many primary care physicians and practices interested in adopting the model are unsure of next steps. Funding SAMHSA's Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration Grants at the full authorization level is an important first step towards ensuring that the CoCM is more widely implemented.

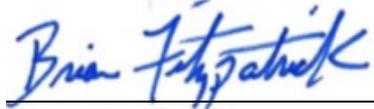
That is why we request that Congress provide \$60 million for SAMHSA's Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration Grants. Should you have any questions or require further information, we would be glad to assist in this effort.

Sincerely,



---

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



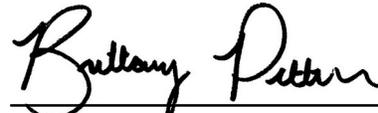
---

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



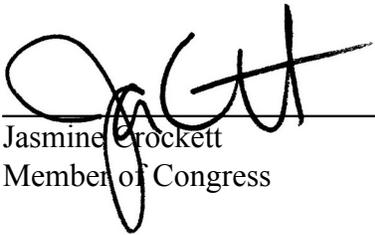
---

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



---

Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



---

Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



---

Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



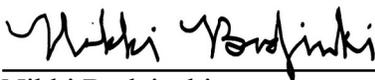
---

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



---

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



---

Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



---

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



---

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



---

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



---

Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



---

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



---

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



---

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



---

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



---

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



---

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



---

Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

